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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Examiner:

Group:

Attorney Docket #: 2721

In re:

Applicant(s): HERRMANN, G., et al

Serial No.: 10/660,179

Filed: 09/11/2003

AMENDMENT

October 5, 2004

Honorable Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

The Office Action of August 19, 2004 has been carefully considered.

A restriction to one of two inventions has been required under 35 USC

121.

Applicant is required to restrict between Claims 1-15 drawn to a method
and Claims 16-17 drawn to a processing device.

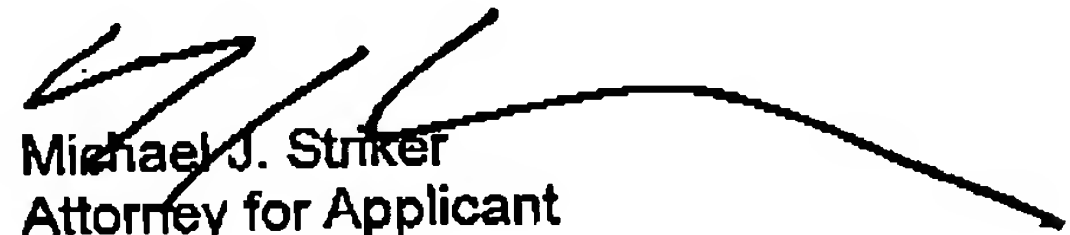
Applicant herewith elects for further prosecution Claims 1-15 drawn to a
method of utilizing a drilling device, classified in Class 33, Sub-Class 638.

This election is without prejudice to the right of the applicant to file a divisional application to Claims 16-17 should it decide to do so. Prosecution on the merits is now respectfully requested.

It is further noted that if Group 1 is elected, then an election of species is required between the species shown in Fig. 1 and the species shown in Fig. 3.

Applicant elects for further prosecution the species shown in Fig. 1. Applicant notes that upon allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in independent form or otherwise include all of the limitation of the allowed generic claim.

Respectfully submitted,



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